

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4051

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0539

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAID, ECON, HA

SUBJECT: DONOR ASSISTANCE COORDINATION

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 0362

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF AIRGRAM A) DETAILING PROBLEMS
EXPERIENCED COLLECTIVELY BY ALL DONORS IN MANAGING THE
SIGNIFICANT AND GROWING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT
TO HAITI AND B) OUTLINING RECOMMENDATIONS TO COPE WITH
THESE PROBLEMS. AIRGRAM ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION
QUESTION AND IS NOT INTENDED AS COMMENTARY ON U.S. OR OTHER
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS PER SE.

2. SINCE 1972, HAITI HAS OPENED ITS DOORS TO EXTERNAL
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, A DECISION COINCIDING WITH THAT OF U.S.
AND INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO HELP
THE MOST NEEDY. HAITI, ONE OF POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD,
WARRANTS SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH VERY CONDITIONS OF
BACKWARDNESS COMBINED WITH PRIDE AND SUSPICION MAKE ASSISTANCE
EFFORT INHERENTLY A HIGH RISK PROPOSITION. INTERNATIONAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THAT OF U.S., HAS DEVELOPED AT
RAPID RATE AND, DESPITE RISKS, HAS REACHED POINT WHERE TOTAL
OBLIGATIONS IN 1976 CONSTITUTE MORE THAN 67 PERCENT OF GOH
DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES. ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS STILL GROWING.

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3. MANAGEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT,
HOWEVER, HAS NOT KEPT PACE WITH MAGNITUDE OF VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS. FAILURE OF DONORS TO DEVELOP CONSENSUS ON GOH
REQUIREMENTS OR TO COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY AT PREPLANNING STAGE
HAS LED TO SOME WASTAGE AND COMPETITION FOR LIMITED GOH
RESOURCES. IT HAS ALSO FACILITATED GOH TENDENCY TO KEEP DONORS

AT ARMS LENGTH, REDUCING COLLECTIVE DONOR LEVERAGE AND ENCOURAGING BILATERAL APPROACH ON GOH TERMS. ASSISTANCE PROJECTS HAVE SO FAR GENERALLY BEEN BENEFICIAL. HOWEVER, COMMITMENT OF DONOR AGENCIES TO EVER-INCREASING ASSISTANCE TO HAITI HAS NOT BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY EITHER A SOBER, COLLECTIVE APPRECIATION OF HAITI'S PRIORITY NEEDS AND LIMITATIONS OR AN EFFECTIVE COLLECTIVE APPROACH TO ASSISTANCE EFFORT -- A SITUATION WHICH THREATENS FRICTION BETWEEN GOH AND DONORS, POORER PERFORMANCE, AND (ULTIMATELY) UNREALIZED EXPECTATIONS.

4. STUMBLING ASSISTANCE EFFORT WOULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE U.S. RELATIONS WITH HAITI, AS WELL AS ITS SPECIFIC GOALS OF HELPING NEEDY AND PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. POTENTIAL PROBLEM CANNOT BE AVOIDED BY U.S. TENDING TO ITS OWN PROJECTS, NOR CAN U.S. UNILATERALLY BRING ABOUT NECESSARY CHANGES.

5. COUNTRY TEAM THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. TAKE IMMEDIATE INITIATIVE TO INTRODUCE GREATER RATIONALITY IN INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT BY URGING MAJOR DONORS TO COME TOGETHER IN WASHINGTON A) TO REACH MORE EFFECTIVE AGREEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES; B) TO PROMOTE MORE EFFECTIVE ONGOING COORDINATION AMONG DONORS AND WITH GOH FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY PROJECTS.

6. INITIATIVES SHOULD BE KEYED TO FORTHCOMING JUNE 1977 OAS (CEPCIES) JOINT COMMISSION MEETING AND DESIGNED TO CONVERT JOINT COMMISSION INTO MORE EFFECTIVE COORDINATING INSTRUMENT. U.S. AT SAME TIME SHOULD ENSURE OAS STAFF HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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STARTED TO PREPARE AGENDA FOR JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH US-OAS NOVEMBER DISCUSSIONS.

7. ANY INITIATIVE IN DIRECTIONS SUGGESTED ABOVE WILL TOUCH SENSITIVE GOH NERVE AND WILL NEED TO BE CAREFULLY ARTICULATED TO AVOID CAUSING UNDUE ALARM. BUT CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION IS ESSENTIAL WITHIN SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF DONOR COORDINATION AND GENERAL CONTEXT OF OVERVIEW MESSAGE (REFTEL) SETTING OUT U.S. OBJECTIVE. FAILURE TO TAKE EARLY ACTION MAY COST US UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP JOINT COMMISSION INTO USEFUL COORDINATING INSTRUMENT AND TO ENHANCE LONG TERM PROSPECTS OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. TIME TO ACT IS NOW WHEN U.S. IMAGE, FORTIFIED WITH ADVENT OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION, IS AT ITS PEAK.

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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